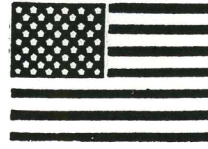


TRACK N' FEATHERS



The Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc.

FALL, 2004

RAILFEST 2004



Photo and article by Larry Spencer

The photograph above shows our beloved Galloping Goose No. 5 stopped at the newly-restored "Needleton Tank" at Mile Post 484.4 on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Railfest 2004 – August 18th through the 22nd – was another huge success for us and the D&SNGRR. The "festivities" began for us early on the morning of Tuesday the 17th in Dolores with servicing and loading of the Goose onto the flatbed truck – provided again this year by Nielsons Skanska Construction Company – and transporting it to Durango where it was offloaded to the yard tracks in Durango. At noon, we conducted our usual non-revenue shakedown run from Durango to Rockwood and return. On Wednesday and Thursday, we took full passenger loads from Durango to the Cascade wye and picnic pavilion (MP 477.5). Friday was the run from Durango to Silverton – again with a full load of happy rail-fans. We stopped several times for "Photo run-bys". On Saturday we conducted two runs from the Silverton Depot (MP 496.7) to the wye in Elk Park (MP 490.5) These Elk Park trips are somewhat short but through a spectacular section of the Animas River Canyon south of Silverton and well worth the cost of a ticket. Sunday was the return trip to Durango. On that trip, we traveled most of the way with the Eureka and Palisades No. 4 – a beautifully restored 1875 Baldwin wood-burning 4-4-0 owned and operated by Mr. Dan Markoff of Los Vegas, Nevada. Needless to say, there were lots of good photo ops on the run-bys. There were a few rain showers to contend with but all in all it was a good day.

We continue to build on our good working relationship with the D&S employees – a relationship of trust and mutual respect. They understand that our main concern is safety, for our passengers, for them, and for our crew members. We especially thank our two D&SNGRR Pilots from this year, Mr. Wayne Pratt and Mr. Dusk Edwards.

